REMARKS

The present amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised

by the Examiner in the Official Action mailed on August 23, 2005. An original certified copy of

Israel Patent Application 131282, supporting Applicants' claim for foreign priority, shall be

submitted forthwith under separate cover. The amendments herein and submission of the

original certified copy of Israel Patent Application 131282 are believed to place the application

in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 – 8 and 34 – 38 are pending in the application.

Claim 3 is currently amended with a self-explanatory amendment as shown above.

Claims 34 – 38 are new claims.

No new matter has been added.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of all claims under consideration is respectfully

requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication of claims 5, 6 and 8 as including allowable subject matter is

acknowledged with appreciation. The subject matter of claim 5 has been incorporated into claim

34 which is a new claim that also includes the subject matter of independent claim 3. Claims 35

– 38 depend from claim 34 and are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency. Entry and

allowance of claims 34 – 38 is respectfully requested.

<u>Priority</u>

Acknowledgement of Applicants' claim of foreign priority is noted with appreciation. An original certified copy of Israel Patent Application 131282 shall be submitted forthwith under separate cover.

<u>Objection to the Abstract</u>

The Abstract is objected to because it contains two paragraphs. A replacement Abstract is submitted herewith.

<u>Correction of the Disclosure</u>

The specification at page 17, line 32 requires appropriate correction to specify the US Patent number. A replacement paragraph of the last paragraph on page 17 (which continues onto the top of page 18) with self-explanatory correction as shown above is submitted herewith.

<u>Claims Rejections</u>

Claims 3 – 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 3, 4 and 5 recite the limitation "the image" for which there is insufficient antecedent basis.

Claim 3 has been amended in line 3 to include the self-explanatory correction shown above thereby providing appropriate antecedent basis for the limitation "the image" which appears in Claims 3, 4 and 5. In view of the foregoing amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection of claims 3 – 8.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 4,958,374 et al. to Tokita.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tokita.

Tokita describes a method of checking patterns and an apparatus therefor in which a pattern is imaged, and the image is converted into a check image data that is represented by pixel

data and density data. Design data is also converted into reference image data corresponding to the check image data. Check image data and reference image data are vectorized and compared to detect defects.

Claim 1 includes, inter alia, the following distinguishing recitation:

> creating a reference image for a representative object, said reference image comprising an at least partially vectorized first representation of boundaries representing said representative object;

There is nothing in Tokita that shows or suggests a "reference image comprising an at least partially vectorized first representation of boundaries representing said representative object". Although the Tokita reference image data includes vectors, those vectors represent the densities of pixels in the reference image and not boundaries.

Claim 3 includes, inter alia, the following distinguishing recitation:

> a boundary identifier operative to generate a representation of boundaries of known elements in an image;

There is nothing in Tokita that shows or suggests generating a "representation of boundaries of known elements in an image". Tokita vectorizes pixel data in an image so as to represent densities of the pixels in an image and not boundaries of known elements in the image. There is no showing or suggestion in Tokita of a boundary identifier.
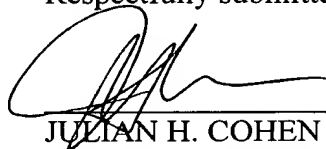
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Tokita fails to anticipate independent claims 1 and 3. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw rejection of these claims, and to withdraw the rejection of claim 2 which is patentable by virtue of its dependency from claim 1, and to withdraw the rejection of claims 4 and 7 which are patentable by virtue of their dependency from claim 3.

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Conclusion and Request for Interview

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in order. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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